

Children's Devotions



Gerrit Verkuyl

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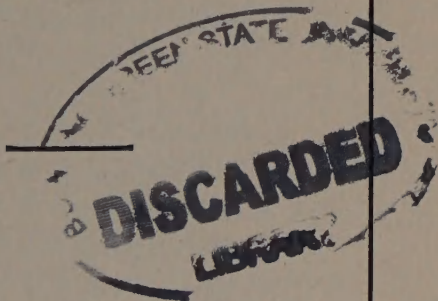


"OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN"

CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS

CONTAINING PRIVATE AND UNITED
PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN, AND
SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE READING,
MEMORY WORK, AND CLEAN BOOKS

BY
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CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS

THE CHILD JESUS

“Jesus was once a little child
And very much like me;
He played and romped, and every night
He knelt at mother's knee.
But Jesus never did a wrong,
As we so often do;
He always did the Father's will
And pleased his parents, too.

“The boys and girls of Nazareth
With whom he used to play
Had always just the nicest time
Throughout the happy day.
Let's try to be like Jesus, then,
'Twould please him well, I know.
And if we really strive for this
Earth will be heaven below.”

A MORNING PRAYER

Most of us ask the heavenly Father each evening to keep us safely through the night and he has heard our prayers. There are so many things that may happen before break of morning, such as sickness, or fire, or theft. But we do not lie awake troubling ourselves about these dangers because we know that our Father in heaven has given his angels charge over us.

When you think of it, dangers come a good deal thicker during the day than they do at night. As long as we are in bed no horses, automobiles, street cars, or trains are likely to hurt us; neither do we have as many temptations as in the daytime. Bad temper, ugly words, telling untruths, taking things which do not belong to us—all these and many other evils tempt us not at night but during the day. Besides, there are so many splendid things we may do during the day, in our reading, our writing, our studies, our work, and our play,

which cannot be done while we are asleep; but to do our very best with them we need God's help and blessing.

How happy a habit it is, then, to kneel before God each morning, to ask for his help through the whole day and to thank him for keeping us all night. One fine man who is mentioned in the Bible was in the habit of saying to God just as he was ready to retire, "In peace will I both lay me down and sleep; for thou, Lord, alone makest me dwell in safety." In the morning he would look up to God again and say, "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustaineth me." In this way he could start a day full of happiness and service for God and for others. He had courage and strength because he felt sure that God was with him every moment.

In all countries of the world in which God is known his children whether small or great observe this beautiful custom of praying to the heavenly Father early in the morning. Let us kneel to him each morning with a prayer.

FOR CHILDREN UNDER EIGHT

"Jesus, help me through this day
In my work and in my play
Both to love and to obey. Amen."

Jesus, Friend of little children,
Be this day a Friend to me.
Take my hand and surely keep me
Near and dear and close to thee. Amen.

—Adapted.

Thank you, dear Jesus, for keeping me
safely all night. Please be very close to me
to-day. Amen.

The morning bright,
With rosy light,
Has waked me up from sleep;
Father, I own
Thy love alone
Thy little one doth keep. Amen.

—Hymns of Worship and Service.

Dear Jesus, I will give to-day
All I may do or think or say;
Giving thee all for what was done
On earth by thee for every one. Amen.

—Adapted.

I thank Thee, Father, for my rest;
Help me to-day to do my best.
Glad and happy would I be,
So I pray for help from thee. Amen.

—*Mrs. O. A. Feltvedt.*

How kind and good Thou art, Lord Jesus,
for taking care of us. Wilt thou remember
us all the day long and help us not to forget
thee. Please help father and mother, too,
as they do so much for us. Amen.

“Father, we thank thee for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light,
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the world so fair.
Amen.”

Later, to this may be added:

“Help us to do the things we should,
To be to others kind and good;
In all we do in work and play
To grow more loving every day. Amen.”

Occasionally parents may join the child in singing this prayer, also:

“Father in heaven, help thy little children,
To love and serve thee throughout this
day.

Help us to be truthful; help us to be
kindly;

That we may please thee in all we do and
say. Amen.”

FOR CHILDREN OF EIGHT AND OVER

At the opening of this day
Lord, we kneel to thee and pray;
Thou hast kept us through the night;
Thou hast brought us to the light.
All the day protect and cheer us;
Give us strength and be thou near us.
Help us to be brave and true
In what we think and say and do. Amen.

“Jesus, keep me all this day,
When at school and when at play;
Help me do the things I ought;
Help me hate each evil thought.

Help me love and trust in thee
Now and through eternity. Amen.”

“For this new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for home and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends,
We thank thee, heavenly Father. Amen.”

Jesus, tender Shepherd, bless me all the day,
Keep me in thy footsteps; never let me
stray.

Guard me through the daytime every hour,
I pray;
Help me to walk onward in thy perfect
way. Amen.

—Adapted.

Our Master and our Friend, thou knowest how often we let words slip from us which afterwards we regret. Set thou a watch before our lips and keep the doors of our mouths, we pray thee. Inspire us with great thoughts so that we shall not be led into the petty and hurtful things. For thy name's sake. Amen.

We thank Thee, our heavenly Father, for the night's rest. The day before us is thine and we are thine. Grant us the strength and the wisdom to serve thee well, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

We do not know, O Lord, what may happen during the day; but thou knowest. Prepare our hearts, we pray, that we may do thy perfect will. In moments of temptation be thou closest, O Christ, so that we may overcome and may honor thee in our conduct. Then shall we thank thee from the heart. Amen.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer." Amen.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Amen.

ON A SUNDAY MORNING

This is Thy day, O Lord, in all the earth. Wilt thou be present wherever thy Word shall be brought. We pray thee especially for our missionaries who are so far from their homeland. In their loneliness wilt thou give them a taste of thy close friendship; in weariness may they have thy strength! Help us also to take our part in the extension of thy Kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Helper. Amen.

The day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man; help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces. Let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day. Bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonored, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep.

—A Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson.

I thank Thee, heavenly Father, for keeping me safe from danger through the night. Thou art good to me, and I want to love thee and be thy child. Help me to do nothing wrong to-day. May I be happy and kind and useful! Help me to be honest in all my work and fair in my play. May I find some place to-day where I may do a good turn to some one, and may I be kept from boasting when it is done. When night comes again may I be stronger and better than I am now because thou hast taught and helped me! I ask it for my Master's sake. Amen.

—Ozora S. Davis, in "*At Mother's Knee.*"

"How strong and sweet my Father's care,
That round about me, like the air,
Is with me always, everywhere!
He cares for me.
Oh, keep me ever in thy love,
Dear Father, watching from above,
And let me still thy mercy prove,
And care for me. Amen."

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SUGGESTED PRAYERS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

I need Thee to teach me day by day, according to each day's opportunities and needs. Give me, O my Lord, that purity of conscience which alone can receive, which alone can improve thy inspirations. My ears are dull, so that I cannot hear thy voice. My eyes are dim, so that I cannot see thy tokens. Thou alone canst quicken my hearing, and purge my sight, and cleanse and renew my heart. Teach me to sit at thy feet, and to hear thy word. Amen.

—*John Henry Newman.*

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and consider our desires. Give unto us true humility, a meek and quiet spirit, a loving and a friendly, a holy and a useful manner of life; bearing the burdens of our neighbors, denying ourselves, and studying to benefit others, and to please thee in all things. Grant us to be righteous in performing

promises, loving to our relatives, careful of our charges; to be gentle and easy to be entreated, slow to anger, and readily prepared for every good work. Amen.

—*Jeremy Taylor.*

O God, the day may have shadows for us, or it may bring us hardship and self-denial; but we shall not be afraid. Our path through gloom shall lead to joy and peace. So we will press on in patient self-denial, accepting the hardship, not shrinking from the loss. Our blessing lies beyond the hour of trial, our crown beyond the cross. Let us not falter in any experience. Let not the world have dominion over us to-day. Help us to fix our eyes on the heavenly hills, and to press on to the glory that waits for us there with thee. Hear us, O God, and grant to us thy blessing and grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—*J. R. Miller.*

O God, who hast commanded that no man should be idle, give us grace to employ

all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that, whatsoever our hand findeth to do, we may do with our might. Cheerfully may we go in the road which thou hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but, daily seeking one way in thy light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey to thee, the Fountain of joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along. Then, O Lord, receive us at the gate of life which thou hast opened for us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

AN EVENING PRAYER

There was a boy once who had a little talk with the heavenly Father every evening before he went to sleep. At times he felt very lonely, for he was not living with his father and mother. They had asked God for him and when God had heard their prayers they were so thankful that they gave their boy back to God. His name was Samuel.

One evening when the boy Samuel had finished the day's work and had taken a final look to see that the lights were still burning in God's house he prayed as usual and fell asleep. But scarcely had he dropped off when some one seemed to call him. He sat up in bed, listening, and looking about, but nobody was in sight. But the call had been clear enough, so he went at once to Eli, the high priest, who had charge of the house of God, and said, "Here am I; you called me." Eli was very much surprised to see the boy at that hour of the night and replied, "Go, lie down again. I

did not call you." This seemed very strange indeed to Samuel; but he did what Eli told him.

A few moments passed when the voice was heard again, "Samuel, Samuel." The boy had never heard God speaking to him with a human voice and it did not occur to him that this time the Lord might be calling. He ran back to Eli's bed, saying, "Here am I; for you did call me." Of course, the high priest, who had not heard any voice, told him again, though very gently, "Lie down, my son, for I did not call thee." When for the third time the call came and Samuel again presented himself to the high priest, Eli saw that God must be calling the lad and instructed him what to say when the next call should come. Once more the voice of God broke the stillness, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel said, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."

Millions of people pray to God every evening just before they go to bed. But until we use our own words it is well that we know several prayers.



FOR VERY SMALL CHILDREN

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep;
Glad and well may I awake.
And this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen."

"Dear and loving Saviour,
Listen to my prayer:
Take me to thy bosom,
Keep me in thy care. Amen."

Dear Jesus, let the angels spread
Their holy wings about my bed,
And keep me safe because I am
The heavenly Shepherd's little lamb.
O loving Saviour, wilt thou keep
Father and mother while they sleep. Amen.

—Adapted from William Canton.

Father, bless thy child to-night;
Wake me with the morning light.
May I pure and holy be,
Daily growing more like thee. Amen.

—Ozora S. Davis.

Thank you, precious Jesus, for being near me all this day. Please hold me very close during the night and keep me from harm. Bless father and mother and all our loved ones. Amen.

FOR CHILDREN OF PRIMARY AGE

“Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me;
Bless thy little lamb to-night;
Through the darkness be thou near me;
Keep me safe till morning light.
All this day thy hand has led me,
And I thank thee for thy care;
Thou hast clothed me, warmed and fed me;
Listen to my evening prayer. Amen.”

This and every evening prayer should be followed by the child's petition for forgiveness, and blessing on loved ones.

“All praise to Thee, O Lord, this night
For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
Beneath thine own almighty wings.
Amen.”

Dear Lord, this evening I would pray
To keep and guide me night and day.
Help me to know thee better, Lord,
To live as taught in thy dear Word;
And may the night's rest mean to me
A day of better praise to thee. Amen.

I thank Thee for the love so true
That watched o'er me the long day through.
Dear Jesus, keep me all this night
And wake me with the morning light.
Amen.

—*Bertha E. Rice.*

Blessed Lord, we thank thee
For thy care to-day;
Make us good and gentle,
Take our sins away.
Bless the friends who love us;
From all evil keep:
May thy holy angels
Guard us while we sleep. Amen.

—*Thomas Simms.*

Dear Jesus, we do not know how many
times we were in danger to-day; but we

know that thou hast brought us in safety to this evening. Accept our thanks for thy goodness and wilt thou still be with us through the hours of darkness. Forgive our sins and bless what we have done for thee. Be with all our loved ones, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

FOR CHILDREN OF JUNIOR AGE AND
OLDER

“Into Thy tender care, into thy keeping
Thou who art everywhere, take us while
sleeping.
Let thine almighty arm closely enfold us;
Nothing can hurt or harm while thou dost
hold us. Amen.”

“The birds have their nest and the foxes
find rest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But thy bed was the sod, O thou strong
Son of God,
By the hillsides of Galilee.

In thy mercy and might keep us safely to-night

And grant us to rest without harm;
When the morning shall break may we
happily wake,
Because underneath is thine arm. Amen."

Night and day and everywhere,
Jesus, keep us in thy care.
While the evening gently falleth
It is thy voice which softly calleth.
Grant us, Lord, a wholesome rest;
Wake us happy and refreshed. Amen.

Our loving Father, we thank thee for thy help and for thy constant care. Where we have wandered, O gracious God, look upon us in Jesus Christ and in thy great mercy forgive. Be with us through the watches of the night and grant us refreshing sleep. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

We thank Thee, our Lord and Saviour, for health and all the helpful things of life;

for they are thy gifts. Strengthen our wills, we pray thee, to present our bodies as living sacrifices to thee. Cleanse us, O Lord, from every thought and deed which does not honor thee. Then shall we be pure and true even as thou hast planned us. We ask it in the name of Jesus, our great Helper. Amen.

Dear Father, I thank thee for all the beautiful things that thou hast made, and I am happy, too, when I think that God made me, and loves me, and takes care of me. I thank thee for the home where so much is done to make me happy and good. Forgive me for all the wrong that I have done to-day and help me to do better to-morrow, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

—*Ozora S. Davis.*

It is very nice to think
The world is full of meat and drink,
With little children saying grace
In every Christian kind of place.

—*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

A THANK YOU AT THE TABLE

One day by the blue waters of Lake Galilee Jesus had been preaching to hundreds and thousands of people. Among them were many boys and girls who had come with their fathers and mothers because they wanted so much to see Jesus. Everyone got as near as possible; but the boys got nearest, because they could squeeze in between the rest.

The people were so interested in what Jesus had to say and so many questions had they to ask of him that it was late in the day before they noticed it. They had forgotten all about eating dinner, too, so that, when at last Jesus no longer taught them, they were hungry and tired.

Jesus knew all this and told his disciples to give the people something to eat before they must walk home. This seemed impossible to the disciples, for there were thousands of people, and they had no food

with them; neither had they the money to buy for so many. Just then Philip, one of the disciples, noticed a boy who had pressed clear up to the front and who carried two small fishes and five cakes of barley bread. He asked the boy if he would like to give his lunch to Jesus, and the boy was very glad to do so. Jesus took the fishes and the cakes in his hand and told the disciples to have all the people seated on the grass in regular divisions of fifties and hundreds. Then the Master looked up to heaven and thanked the Father above for the food. He also blessed it. After that the disciples distributed the food among the people and found that there was enough and to spare.

Every time we read of Jesus' eating it is told us that he thanked the heavenly Father, who gives these good gifts to us. And we who are his followers should give thanks, too, whenever and wherever we eat.

FOR VERY SMALL CHILDREN

Precious Jesus, thou art good
And we thank thee for this food. Amen.

"Dear Father, bless the food we take
And bless us all, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Thank you, loving Jesus, for this food;
and wilt thou bless it. Amen.

"Dear Lord, we thank thee for thy care,
The food we eat, the clothes we wear;
Be present with us everywhere. Amen."

God bless this food and bless us all
And keep us safe whate'er befall. Amen.

—*Amos R. Wells.*

FOR CHILDREN OF PRIMARY AGE

"God is great and God is good
And we thank him for this food.
By his hand must all be fed;
Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Amen."

Be present, at our table, Lord,
Be here and everywhere adored;
Thy children bless, and grant that we
May eat and drink to honor thee. Amen.

—*Adapted.*

Thou hast again remembered us, O Lord,
and we would not forget thee. Bless this
food, we pray, and help us to serve thee
well. Amen.

We come to Thee, our heavenly Father,
to thank thee for thy loving care. Help us
to use these gifts of thy hand gladly to do
thy bidding. Amen.

“For these and all Thy gifts of love
We give thee thanks and praise;
Look down, O Father, from above
And bless us all our days. Amen.”

FOR CHILDREN OF JUNIOR AGE AND OVER

Now we thank Thee, Father in heaven,
For this food which thou hast given.
Bless us all as we partake;
Give us strength for Jesus' sake. Amen.

We ask Thee, gracious Saviour,
To be our present Guest.
Grant to our bodies added strength
And may our souls be blest. Amen.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Amen.

Giver of every good and perfect gift, the eyes of all wait upon thee and thou givest them their meat in due season. Favor us with thy blessing, we pray, as we partake of these bounties. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

In the midst of our work, dear Saviour, we gather around this table which is thine. Thou hast covered it with thy kindness and we praise thee for thy gifts to us. Transform this food into strength, O Lord, and the strength into noble service. We ask it in thy name. Amen.

—*Amos R. Wells.*

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his lovingkindness endureth for ever." Amen.

DEVOTIONS IN UNISON

These suggestions apply to all religious work with children, in Sunday schools, Junior societies, mission circles, and daily Bible schools.

When Jesus was on the earth and people could see him and listen to his voice, the mothers who knew him were very anxious to have their children near him. And every child, as soon as it saw his pure and loving face, wanted to cuddle close to him. The disciples who were with Jesus thought that he had come to preach to the grown people and not to play with children; so they told the mothers to take away their little ones and no longer to trouble the Master. When Jesus noticed this he corrected so great a mistake, saying, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for to such belongeth the kingdom of heaven." Then he took the children up in his arms and blessed them.

Jesus is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. He loves little children, and older boys and girls, too, as fondly now as he ever did. We can come to him with our smiles and our tears, with our songs and our prayers, and he is always ready to listen.

FOR SMALL CHILDREN

NEAR THE BEGINNING OF THE SERVICE

Jesus, who once blest the children

In the land of Galilee,

Bless us, too, as we have gathered

From our homes to learn of thee. Amen.

In using the following prayer the parts of the body indicated may be touched by the hands successively:

Loving hearts that gladly meet Thee,

Willing hands upraised to greet thee,

Ears and eyes and lips we bring,

Jesus, as we softly sing,

“Father, we thank thee: Father in heaven,
we thank thee.”

Jesus, who hast called us here
From our homes and parents dear,
Hear our singing, hear our prayer,
And be with us everywhere. Amen.

MISSIONARY PRAYER

Lord, bless the little children
In all the world, we pray;
Help every one to love thee
And keep us in thy way. Amen.

PRAYER WITH THE OFFERING

Father, bless our school to-day;
Be in all we do and say;
Be in every song we sing,
Bless the offering which we bring.
May we in the lesson see
Something telling us of thee. Amen.

A PRAYER SONG

“‘Give,’ said the little stream,
‘Give, oh give, give, oh give,’
‘Give,’ said the little stream,
As it hurried down the hill.

'I am small, I know, but wherever I go
The fields grow greener still.'
Singing, singing all the day,
'Give away, oh, give away.'"

A PRAYER NEAR THE CLOSING

Saviour, in this happy hour
Thou hast been so near us;
Through the sunshine and the shower
Wilt thou ever hear us.
Every moment, every day,
For thy loving care we pray. Amen.

Frequently it is well to precede the children's prayer with the caution:

"We fold our hands that we may be
From all our play and work set free.
We bow our heads as we draw near
The King of kings, our Father dear.
We close our eyes that we may see
Nothing to take our thoughts from thee."

FOR CHILDREN OF PRIMARY AGE

NEAR THE OPENING

We thank Thee for thy holy day;
Lord, hear thy children as they pray;
Teach us to follow in thy way,
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Loving Jesus, hear our prayer
And thy blessed answer give;
By thy grace our hearts prepare,
That for thee we learn to live. Amen.
—Adapted.

A MOTION EXERCISE OF PRAISE FROM THE
BIBLE

1. (Right hand raised.) "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord."
2. (Clap hands once.) "O clap your hands, all ye people."
3. (Fold arms.) "Thy word have I hid in mine heart."
4. (Stand up.) "Stand up and bless the Lord your God."

5. (Join tips of fingers over head.) "His banner over me was love."

6. (Put hands by the side.) "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom."

7. (Right hand stretched out.) "Length of days is in her right hand."

8. (Left hand stretched out.) "And in her left hand riches and honor."

9. (Clap hands three times.) "Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

10. (Sit down.) "Him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne."

IN SIMILAR MANNER

"I've two little hands to work for Jesus,
One little tongue his praise to tell;
Two little ears to hear his counsel,
One little voice a song to swell.

"Lord, we come, Lord, we come,
In our childhood's early morning.
Lord, we come, Lord, we come,
Come to learn of thee."

A PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

Everywhere Thy children gather
On this holy day;
But if some do not yet know thee
Bring them soon, we pray.
Precious Jesus, bless the teaching
Of thy holy Word;
May thy light and thy salvation
Reach o'er all the earth. Amen.

A PRAYER WITH THE OFFERING

"Dear Jesus, bless our offering,
We bring it all to thee.
For though we are but children
Thy servants we may be.
Bless, O bless our offering,
Use it, Lord, we pray.
Gladly, do we bring it
Unto thee this day. Amen."

Gifts without number we have received
from Thee, O Lord; wilt thou accept this
offering from us thy children as a token of
our thankfulness to thee? Amen.

✓ A PRAYER SONG WITH THE OFFERING

"Can a little child, like me,
Thank the Father fittingly?
Yes, oh, yes! Be good and true,
Patient, kind in all you do:
Love the Lord, and do your part;
Learn to say with all your heart:
'Father, we thank thee! Father, we thank
thee!
Father in heaven, we thank thee!'"

A PRAYER NEAR THE CLOSING

For the teaching of Thy Word
We sincerely thank thee, Lord.
Help us in our daily living
So to use what thou art giving
That our friends who hear and see
Draw the closer unto thee. Amen.

"O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day. Amen."

Thy presence, O Saviour Christ, is not in our meetings only; but thou art with us always. Help us to think of thee as our constant Friend and to turn to thee with our hopes, our prayers, and our weaknesses. Amen.

Father, let thy benediction,
Gently falling as the dew,
And thine ever-gracious presence
Keep us strong and pure and true. Amen.
—Adapted.

FOR JUNIOR AGE

NEAR THE OPENING

We have gathered in Thy name,
Young and full of life we came;
Father, hear our pleading.
Teach us lessons that endure,
Help us to be brave and pure.
Lord, we seek thy leading. Amen.

Our Lord and Saviour, for this day
With rest and song and prayer,
We render thanks to thee.

O help us, Master, all the way,
Whatever we do, wherever we are,
Still to remember thee. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

Lord, in the midst of thine abundant graces
We would not merely pray for us alone;
But we remember dark and needy places
Where heroes of the sacred cross have
gone.

O Father, bless thy Word that shall be
spoken;
Bring wandering hearts from darkness
into light.

Grant to thy servants everywhere this token:
Lives changing through thy wondrous love
and might. Amen.

A PRAYER WITH THE OFFERING

The earth is Thine and its fullness, O
Lord, and we come before thee with this
portion, which first we received from thy
hand. In thy grace wilt thou bless it;
then shall it be a blessing. Through Jesus
Christ. Amen.

AT SUCH A TIME AND ALSO PERSONALLY
DURING THE WEEK

Thine we are, and thou hast sought us,
Great Creator, Lord.

Thine we are, for thou hast bought us,
O incarnate Word.

Thine we are; O Saviour, take us,
Sinful though we be,

Lead us all the way and make us
Servants true to thee. Amen.

Lord, we need thy keeping grace
In the struggles we must face.
Sorely tempted we may be,
Losing, were it not for thee.
Guide us, Saviour, by thy hand,
Help us follow thy command;
Every day we want to show
Whom we love and serve and know.
Amen.

PRAYER NEAR THE CLOSING

“The Lord will keep thee from all evil;
he will keep thy soul. The Lord will keep

thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and for evermore." Amen.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer." Amen.

Our Saviour, as we part we lift our hearts
to thee
In songs of love and praise for blessings
full and free.
Attend us to our homes, stay with us
through the week;
Wherever we may be help us thy praise to
seek. Amen.

"Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

O Lord, our divine Helper, as we go out into life with its pleasures, its opportunities, and its pitfalls, we earnestly beseech thee for sufficient strength at every turn. Enable us with willing hearts to present our bodies as living sacrifices unto thee. From every degrading thought cleanse thou our minds and help us to center our ambitions upon the purposes which thou hast revealed, O Father, in thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER SONG

“In the hour of trial,
Jesus, plead for me,
Lest by base denial
I depart from thee;
When thou seest me waver,
With a look recall;
Nor for fear or favor
Suffer me to fall.”

Also: “When Morning Gilds the Skies,”
and “Fairest Lord Jesus.”

MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS

SALUTE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG

(This salute is similar to that of a soldier to an officer)

I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice to all.

SALUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Saviour for whose Kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love.

THE CHILD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt have no gods but me.
2. Before no idol bow the knee.
3. Take not the name of God in vain.
4. Dare not the Sabbath Day profane.
5. Give both thy parents honor due.
6. Hate not, that thou no murder do.

7. Abstain from words and deeds unclean.
8. Steal not; for thou by God art seen.
9. Make not a willful lie, nor love it.
10. What is thy neighbor's do not covet.

JESUS' LAW

"This is the first and great command,
To love thy God above;
And this the second: As thyself
Thou shalt thy neighbor love.
Who is my neighbor? He who needs
The help that I can give.
And both the law and prophets say:
This do and thou shalt live."

A CHILD'S CREED

"I believe in God above;
I believe in Jesus' love;
I believe his Spirit, too,
Comes to teach me what to do;
I believe that I must be
True and good, dear Lord, like thee.
Amen."

A CHILD'S BIBLE ALPHABET

Abhor that which is evil.

Be ye kind one to another.

Cease to do evil; learn to do well.

Depart from evil, and do good.

Enter not into temptation.

Fear God, and keep his commandments.

Glorify God.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

In everything give thanks.

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Keep thy tongue from evil.

Love one another.

My son, give me thy heart.

No man can serve two masters.

Obey your parents in the Lord.

Pray without ceasing.

Quench not the Spirit.

Remember also thy Creator in the days of
thy youth.

Speak the truth.

Trust ye in the Lord forever.

Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth
hath everlasting life.

Watch and pray.

Yield yourselves unto the Lord.

A PROVERBS ALPHABET

A soft answer turneth away wrath. 15 : 1.

Buy the truth, and sell it not. 23 : 23.

Commit thy works unto the Lord. 16 : 3.

Despise not thy mother when she is old.

23 : 22.

Enter not into the path of the wicked.

4 : 14.

Fear the Lord, and depart from evil. 3 : 7.

Get wisdom, get understanding. 4 : 5.

Hear instruction, and be wise. 8 : 33.

If sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

1 : 10.

I love them that love me; and those that seek me diligently shall find me. 8 : 17.

Justice . . . is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. 21 : 3.

Keep thy heart with all diligence. 4 : 23.

Lying lips are abomination to the Lord.

12 : 22.

My son, forget not my law. 3 : 1.

Neither decline from the words of my mouth. 4:5.

Obtain favor of the Lord. 8:35.

Put away from thee a wayward mouth.
4:24.

Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth.
24:17.

Trust in the Lord with all thy heart.
3:5.

Understanding is a wellspring of life.
16:22.

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler.
20:1.

GOD'S SPECIAL MESSAGES TO CHILDREN

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Ex. 20:12.

The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Zech. 8:5.

Man looketh upon the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. I Sam. 16:7.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. Ps. 32:8.

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. II Chron. 16:9.

Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Eccl. 12:1.

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. Prov. 1:8.

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52.

Jesus saith unto him, Follow me. John 1:43.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. Gal. 5:22.

There is a lad here, who hath five barley loaves, and two fishes. John 6:9.

Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. Matt. 10:32.

Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Mark 10:14.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16.

Let no man despise thy youth. I Tim. 4:12.

Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is. Rev. 22:12.

A MONTH'S PASSAGES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

God Our Creator. Gen. 2:1-9.

His Wandering Children. Gen. 3:1-8.

The Merciful Father. Gen. 18:23-33.

A Brother's Love. Gen. 45:1-15.

God's Call to Moses. Ex. 3:1-19.

His People's Keeper. Ex. 14:19-31.

The Ten Commandments. Ex. 20:1-17.

Reverence in God's Presence. Lev. 10:1-11.

Good Courage. Josh. 1:1-9.

A Splendid Son. Judg. 6:25-32.

God's Call to Samuel. I Sam. 3:1-10.

David's Strength with God. I Sam. 17:31-49.
A Thoughtful Girl. II Kings 5:1-14.
Solomon's Choice. II Chron. 1:7-13.
The Boy King. II Chron. 24:1-10.
God's Questionings. Job 39:19 to 40:5.
The Better Way. Psalm 1.
God's Way of Teaching. Psalm 19.
Our Good Shepherd. Psalm 23.
The King of Glory. Psalm 24.
A Straight Lesson. Ps. 34:11-22.
Our Mighty Helper. Psalm 46.
A Song of Memories. Ps. 90:1-12.
Thanksgiving. Psalm 100.
God's Great Goodness. Psalm 103.
He Keeps Us All the Way. Psalm 121.
Helpful Suggestions. Prov. 3:1-7.
Secrets of Success. Prov. 4:1-19.
A Virtuous Woman. Prov. 31:10-31.
God's Invitation. Isa., Ch. 55.
The Right Purpose. Dan. 1:3-20.

A MONTH'S PASSAGES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

In Bethlehem's Fields. Luke 2:8-19.
Wise Men Seeking Jesus. Matt. 2:1-12.
The Boy Jesus. Luke 2:41-52.
The Master Teacher. Matt. 5:37-48.
First Things. Matt. 6:19-34.

- The Lord of the Body. Matt. 8 : 1-18.
The Master of Nature. Matt. 8 : 23-27.
The Lord of the Unseen World. Matt. 8 : 28-34.
A Day with Jesus. Mark 1 : 21-35.
A Great Parable. Luke 15 : 11-32.
The Child in the Center. Mark 9 : 35-42.
Receiving the Word. Matt. 13 : 17-23.
Two Ways of Watching. Matt. 25 : 1-13.
Two Ways of Working. Matt. 25 : 31-36.
Two Ways of Final Meeting. Matt. 25 : 31-46.
The Triumphant Entry. Matt. 21 : 1-17.
A Lesson in Serving. John 13 : 1-17.
The Lord's Supper. Luke 22 : 14-30.
The Crucifixion. Mark 15 : 1-39.
The Resurrection. John 20 : 1-20.
The Last Commandment. Matt. 28 : 16-20.
The Ascension. Acts 1 : 1-11.
The Descent of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2 : 1-18.
Paul's Conversion. Acts 9 : 1-22.
The First Missionaries. Acts 13 : 1-12.
Songs in the Night. Acts 16 : 16-34.
A Life of Gratitude. Rom., Ch. 12.
Strong in His Power. Eph., 6 : 11-19.
The Mind of Christ. Phil. 2 : 1-12.
The Greatest Thing in the World. I Cor., Ch. 13.
He Comes Again. Rev. 22 : 6-17.

SUGGESTED BIBLE MEMORY WORK FOR CHILDREN UNDER NINE

Gen. 1:1-3; Ps. 1; 23; 34:11-14; 100; Isa. 9:6, 7; Luke 2:8-14; Matt. 5:3-9; 28:1-6; 28:19, 20. The Lord's Prayer.

SUGGESTED BIBLE MEMORY WORK FOR JUNIORS AND OLDER

Gen. 1:26, 27; 12:1-3; Ex. 20:3-17; Job 39:19-25; Ps. 8; 19; 24; 37:1-5; 46; 90:1-4; 103:1-14; 119:9-11; Prov. 3:5-7; 15:1-5; Eccl. 12:1-7; Isa. 1:16-18; 40:29-31; 55:6-11; John 1:1-4; 10:1-5; 14:1-9; Matt. 2:1-11; 7:21-27; Luke 12:16-21; 15:11-24; Rom. 8:31-39; 10:13-15; I Cor. 13:1-7; Gal. 6:7-9; Eph. 6:1-8; Phil. 2:5-11; 4:8; Heb. 1:1-3; 12:1, 2; II Peter 1:5-8; Rev. 7:9-17; 21:1-4.

SPLENDID READING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

BOYS EIGHT YEARS OLD

Just So Stories, *Kipling*.
Tell Me a True Story, *Stewart*.
The Little Lame Prince, *Craik*.
Tales Come True, *Walker*.
A Weaver Boy Who Became a Missionary, *Adams*.
Wigwam Stories, *Judd*.

GIRLS EIGHT YEARS OLD

The Light Princess and Other Fairy Tales, *McDonald*.
Jolly Good Times, *Smith*.
Surprise Island, *Kennedy*.
Poems Children Love, *Coussens*.
Seven Little Sisters, *Andrews*.
Topsy-Turvy Land, *Zwemer*.

BOYS NINE YEARS OLD

Two Little Confederates, *Page*.
American Leaders, and Heroes, *Gordy*.
Juan and Juanita, *Baylor*.
Little Pierre and Big Peter, *Ogden*.
Good Bird, the Indian, *Wilson*.
When I Was a Boy in Japan, *Sakae Shioya*.

GIRLS NINE YEARS OLD

Grandpa's Little Girls, *Curtis*.
 The Land We Live In, *Price*.
 Memoirs of a White Elephant, *Gautier*.
 Posy Ring, *Wiggins and Smith*.
 Around the World with Jack and Janet, *Waterbury*.
 How a Little Girl Went to Africa, *Bicknell*.

BOYS TEN YEARS OLD

True Story of Abraham Lincoln, *Brooks*.
 King of the Golden River, *Ruskin*.
 Hans Brinker, *Dodge*.
 Indian Why Stories, *Linderman*.
 Comrades from Other Lands, *Demock*.
 The Story of Chalmers of New Guinea, *Kelman*.

GIRLS TEN YEARS OLD

Birds' Christmas Carol, *Wiggin*.
 How We Are Clothed, *Chamberlain*.
 Felicia, *Gould*.
 The Marooning of Peggy, *Daulton*.
 Twelve Little Pilgrims Who Stayed at Home, *Scott*.
 Child Life in Mission Lands, *Diffendorfer*.

BOYS ELEVEN YEARS OLD

Four American Patriots, *Burton*.
 Dog of Flanders, *De Ramée*.

Real Stories from Our History, *Faris*.
Bears of Blue River, *Major*.
Indian Boyhood, *Eastman*.
Story of China, *Van Bergen*.

GIRLS ELEVEN YEARS OLD

Little Women, *Alcott*.
Jackanapes, *Ewing*.
Old, Old Tales from the Old, Old Book, *Smith*.
Donald and Dorothy, *Dodge*.
Two Girls in China, *Kraut*.
Child Life in Many Lands, *Trumbull*.

BOYS TWELVE YEARS OLD

With Washington at Valley Forge, *Foster*.
The Story of King Arthur, *Brooks*.
Heroes and Greathearts, *Dale*.
Servants of the King, *Speer*.
Adventures in the African Jungle, *Geil*.
James Gilmore and His Boys, *Lovett*.

GIRLS TWELVE YEARS OLD

Tanglewood Tales, *Hawthorne*.
The Story of Betty, *Wells*.
Polly Trotter, Patriot, *Knipe*.
When I Was a Girl in Italy, *Ambrosi*.
White Queen of Okoyong, *Livingstone*. A young
folks' edition of "Mary Slessor of Calabar."
Song of Hiawatha, *Longfellow*.

PARENTS' BOOKS

PARENTS OF PRIMARY AND BEGINNERS CHILDREN

Child Nature and Child Nurture, *St. John*.

First Lessons in Child Training, *Walters*.

Teeth, Tonsils, and Adenoids; Free Booklet by
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New
York.

Hurlbut's Story of Jesus.

Sunday Afternoons with the Children, *Faris*.

PARENTS OF JUNIORS AND OLDER

What Shall We Do Now? *Canfield*.

Misunderstood Children, *Harrison*.

The Boy Problem in the Home, *Forbush*.

Education in Sexual Physiology and Hygiene,
Zenner.

HINTS TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Our purpose is not to teach prayers or to suppress the vitality which God has imparted to our children; but rather to teach them how to pray and how to answer the challenge which God gives to every soul he sends into the world according to their powers. "To glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever" is still the chief end of man, including the child. The realization of this means happiness in a religious way. Our prayer and aim should be to lead our children into a strong conviction that the more truly they serve God the happier will they be both in this life and in that which is to come.

In teaching them to pray may we suggest:

1. Make clear the meaning of each prayer so that the child may have a chance to express through it his own experience and his feelings.

2. Make sure that the child employs the intended language and not some monstrous subversion of it.

3. Allow the child very freely to substitute his own words and ideas as long as these convey a wholesome religious sense.

4. Beware of a mechanical use of prayers. As soon as a certain set of words becomes formal, discourage its use and teach another prayer. Suggest ideas for which to pray, such as: God's help against temptations, his presence at work and at play, his healing power in sickness, his blessing upon an absent friend, or a word of thanks for some definite blessing he has granted. By suggesting such ideas and at first perhaps the words, the child will slowly learn to frame the ideas into his own words, and later will have his own ideas, of which his prayer will be the expression.

5. The best child prayer is the child's prayer. Encourage therefore every free expression of the child Godward.

6. Frequently let the child ask "Grace" at the table. Send him from Sunday school

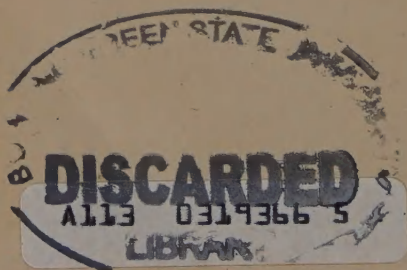
or Junior meeting with the suggestion that he request his parents to allow him to ask the blessing at mealtime. Occasionally allow a child to pray singly a prayer intended for all. It will greatly aid him in the liberty that should be his to approach the heavenly Father.

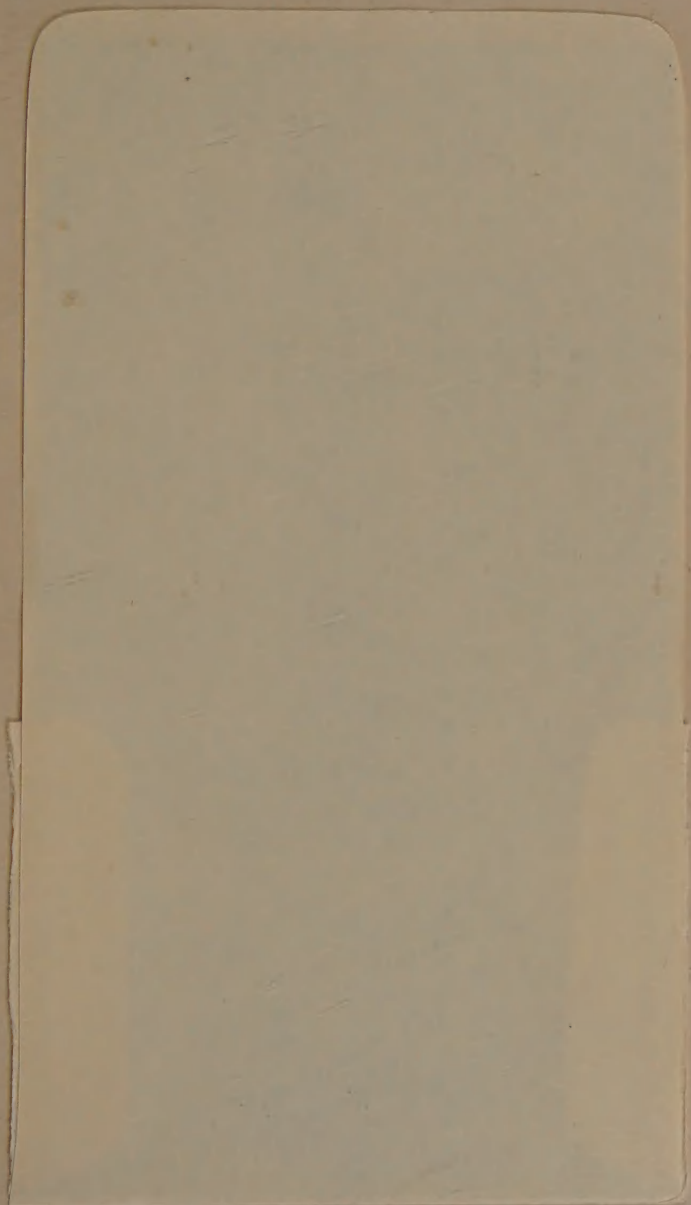
7. So direct the actions of pupils that every prayer shall be clothed with reverence. You will never in the child's presence smile or laugh at anything he utters in prayer or in connection with it.

8. Answer every question of the child honestly and thoroughly according to the child's understanding.

9. God's messages to our children are at least as important as our communications with him. We have numerous chances to-day to read with them the Bible stories, either from leaflets of Sunday-school lessons or from children's Bibles, or by putting the words of the Bible into language which the child can grasp. At such times of reading there are frequent opportunities for a brief, informal prayer with our children.

10. Unless we ourselves are God's living messages to our children, the messages of the Book and the verbal prayers we teach them will have little meaning. But we cannot be fit messages unless we "pray without ceasing."





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